

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a server from a plurality of servers to service a request for content, comprising:

designating a director from the plurality of servers to receive the request, wherein the designation is made on a request-by-request basis and wherein any of the plurality of servers can be designated as the director;

determining whether the content is ~~present~~ stored on the director by accessing a state table stored on the director, wherein the state table includes parametric information for each server in the plurality of servers; and

if the content is not stored on the director, under the direction of the director,

determining whether any other servers among said plurality of servers has the content stored thereon by examining the state table on the director;

determining a load factor for each of the other servers having the content; and,

selecting one of the other servers having the content to service the request, based on the load factor.

~~allocating to the director the task of selecting a server to service the request from the plurality of servers, said server having stored thereon the content, the director using a state table comprising parametric information for servers in the plurality of servers, wherein said parametric information comprises information identifying assets maintained on each server in the plurality of servers.~~

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of designating comprises designating the director in a round-robin fashion.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~step of designating~~ comprises designating the director on the basis of lowest load director is designated based on a load factor analysis for each server among said plurality of servers, the load factor for each

server based on parametric information stored in a respective state table thereon, and wherein the designated director has a lowest load factor.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of selecting~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising selecting the director if the content is present on the director.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said parametric information further comprises functional state and current load of each server.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said parametric information further comprises whether each server comprises extended memory.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said parametric information further comprises whether each server comprises an inline adaptable cache.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said parametric information further comprises whether each asset is a new release.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising rejecting the request if the content is not present on any of the plurality of servers.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising forwarding the request to the selected server.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising redirecting the request to the selected server.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selecting further comprises:

~~calculating a load factor for each server in the plurality of servers having the content;~~

identifying as available servers ~~one or more~~ any servers whose ~~parameters~~
load factors are below threshold limits;

selecting a server from the available servers ~~having the lowest load factor~~; and

otherwise selecting a server having ~~the~~ a lowest load factor from the ~~plurality~~
~~of other~~ servers having the content.

13. (Currently Amended) A ~~director~~ server computer ~~for directing~~ configured to direct a request for content among a plurality of server computers comprising:

a state table comprising parametric information for each server in the plurality of server computers, said ~~director server computer being~~ state table enabling any one of the plurality of server computers to act as a director, said parametric information comprising information identifying assets maintained on the plurality of server computers; and

a communication component for ~~sending~~ concurrently pushing changes to the state table to each of the other servers in said plurality of server computers upon any such change.

14. (Currently Amended) The server of claim 13, wherein the ~~director~~ server computer is a member of a load-balancing group, and the communication component sends changes to server computers in the load-balancing group.

15. (Currently Amended) The server of claim 13, further comprising a redirection means for ~~acknowledging the client request and~~ identifying one of the plurality of server computers where ~~the~~ a requested asset is stored.

16. (Currently Amended) The server of claim 13, further comprising a forwarding means for sending the ~~client~~ request to one of the plurality of server computers where ~~the~~ a requested asset is stored.

17. (Previously Presented) The server of claim 13, wherein said parametric information further comprises functional state and current load of each server computer.

18. (Previously Presented) The server of claim 13, wherein said parametric information further comprises whether each server computer comprises extended memory.

19. (Previously Presented) The server of claim 13, wherein said parametric information further comprises whether each server computer comprises an inline adaptable cache.

20. (Original) The server of claim 13, wherein said parametric information further comprises whether each asset is a new release.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions for performing the following steps:

designating a director from the plurality of servers to receive the request, wherein the designation is made on a request-by-request basis and wherein any of the plurality of servers can be designated as the director;

determining whether the content is ~~present~~ stored on the director by accessing a state table stored on the director, wherein the state table includes parametric information for each server in the plurality of servers; and

if the content is not stored on the director, under the direction of the director,

determining whether any other servers among said plurality of servers has the content stored thereon by examining the state table on the director;

determining a load factor for each of the other servers having the content; and,

selecting one of the other servers having the content to service the request,

based on the load factor.

~~allocating to the director the task of selecting a server to service the request from the plurality of servers, said server having stored thereon the content, the director using a state table comprising parametric information for servers in the plurality of servers, wherein said parametric information comprises information identifying assets maintained on each server in the plurality of servers.~~

22. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the step of designating comprises designating the director in a round-robin fashion.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the step of designating comprises designating the director on the basis of lowest load.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the step of selecting further comprises selecting the director if the content is present on the director.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein said parametric information further comprises functional state and current load of each server.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein said parametric information further comprises whether each server comprises extended memory.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein said parametric information further comprises whether each server comprises an inline adaptable cache.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein said parametric information further comprises whether each asset is a new release.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, further comprising computer-executable instructions for rejecting the request if the content is not present on any of the plurality of servers.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, further comprising computer-executable instructions for forwarding the request to the selected server.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, further comprising computer-executable instructions for redirecting the request to the selected server.

32. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the step of selecting further comprises:

~~calculating a load factor for each server in the plurality of servers having the content;~~

identifying as available servers one or more servers whose ~~parameters~~ load factors are below threshold limits;

selecting a server from the available servers ~~having the lowest load factor~~; and

otherwise selecting a server having ~~the a~~ a lowest load factor from the ~~plurality of other~~ servers having the content.

33. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising updating parametric information in a state table associated with the selected server, and communicating updated parametric information to the other servers among said plurality of servers.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the updated parametric information is communicated via multicast.

35. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the updated parametric information is communicated via a broadcast message.